

Water Quality Protection Division



Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico Region 6 Update

Subject: **Water Quality Division Update # 44**
 Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Date: July 1, 2010

Reporting Period: June 30, 2010 1300 – July 1, 2010 1300

HIGHLIGHTS

Regional weather patterns continue to hamper shoreline protection and sampling efforts.

CONTINUING ISSUES

Forecast

The nearshore oil forecast created by NOAA on 6/30/10 at 2100 CDT for 7/1/10 at 1200 CDT (Figure 1) indicates that the main part of the oil slick will be east of Louisiana with a portion of the slick south of the Delta extending westward. Winds are forecast to be predominately out of the south and southeast and will decrease from 20 knots Wednesday to 11-14 knots and Saturday. Shoreline contacts may occur on the barrier islands of Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle as far east as Freeport, Fl. With the sustained SE winds, shoreline contacts also threaten Breton Sound, the Chandeleur Islands and the Mississippi Delta. The strong southeast winds may bring oil ashore between Barataria and Cailou Bay and a strong westward current that is developing may carry the oil to the west faster.

- For maps concerning shoreline impact assessments, oil slick forecasts, and sampling locations go to <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doctype/2931/53979/>

Monitoring and Assessment

- Continuing to coordinate with HQ, Region 4, and the REOC Environmental Unit regarding planning activities and daily review of monitoring data.

Drinking Water

- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen to date.
- EPA Region 6 continues to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.

Data Management – Mapping Efforts

- Updated the Shoreline Coastal Assessment Team (SCAT) and the oiled CWPPRA projects maps.

NPDES

- Participating in discussions with OW and R4 on options for modification of existing oil and gas general permits in the Gulf of Mexico.

Coastal Programs

Louisiana Large-Scale Coastal Barrier Plan:

- Work on both the eastern and western stretches of the berms has ceased and dredgers are waiting out the high waves and tides from Hurricane Alex. Prior to the storm, all sediment samples from borrow sites and rehandling areas tested negative for the presence of hydrocarbons.
- The State expects to submit to the Corps the full permit application package and monitoring plan today. Additional discussions on environmental resource issues are underway regarding pre-construction geotechnical surveys, natural resource protection issues, interconnections with the pending Pelican Island CWPPRA project, and ramifications for maintenance dredging at other major navigation channels.

Corps Emergency Authorizations for Coastal Protection Features:

- Comments were sent to the Corps this morning on special conditions proposed for a permit for constructing rock dikes in Pass Abel and Four Bayou Pass. EPA reiterated ongoing concerns about the efficacy of the project and the potential adverse environmental impacts. Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, among other agencies and organizations, previously submitted similar comments.
- Comments are due tomorrow on a request by Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes to fill numerous breaks in the South Lafourche Levee District structure.

Corps Navigation Maintenance Dredging:

- Discussions continue with the Corps regarding dredged material disposal in the lower Mississippi River in light of reports of surface sheen and tar balls in the area designated by EPA for ocean disposal of dredged material (ODMDS).
- Discussions continue internally and with the Corps (headquarters, Districts, and MV Division) on the EPA (R6, R4, OCPD) discussion paper on ocean dumping suitability issues in areas impacted by the oil spill.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

- It is anticipated that there may be re-oiling of several shorelines in the vicinity of CWPPRA projects located in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins.